Hike!

October '99 Vol 2 No 1

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Photos

Cover - Alex Theuma - National 3 Dog Sprint and Marathon Champion	**Andrew & Fiona Matthews**
Hindsight - Darren Kent - National 1 Dog Sprint Champion	Andrew & Fiona Matthews
Jeff King at the Start of the K300	Kuskowim Race Committee
Doug Swingley - winner of the '99 K300	Kuskowim Race Committee
Jasom Walkom at the '99 Sydney Sled Dog Sprint	Sharon Komidar
Two Dogs	Andrew & Fiona Matthews
Alex Theuma 1999 National Champion 3-Dog Sprint & Marathon!	Andrew & Fiona Matthews
Terry Mace at the 1999 A5000	Andrew & Fiona Matthews
Terry, Miko and Flash	Terry Mace
Dave Hodgson - National 2-Dog Sprint Champion	Andrew & Fiona Matthews
Mark Mulcahy - National 1-Dog Marathon Champion	Andrew & Fiona Matthews
Jozsef Toth - Open Class & 6-Dog Marathon and 6-Dog Sprint Champion	Peter Komidar
Clem Bittendorfer - National 2-Dog Marathon Champion	Beth Bobroff
Di Baker - National 4 Dog Marathon Champion	Andrew & Fiona Matthews

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Next Month in *Hike!*

Next month marks a return to the off-season format - with more articles about snow races overseas, racer profiles and lots more besides.

With the additional free time that summer brings - no training, hot sleepy dogs etc - there's plenty of time for avid *Hike!* readers to submit articles on items of interest. Come on get it off your chest!

Thought For the Month

"So where's my dinner? One of the Great Masters indeed!"
Leonardo da Vinci's dog

(Taken from a Gary Larson cartoon)

Hike! 1999 National Champions

National Sprint Champions

1 Dog Class
1st Darren Kent
2nd Darren Higgins
3rd Mark Mulcahy

2 Dog Class
1st Dave Hodgson
2nd Peter Komidar
3rd Beth Bobroff

3 Dog Class
1st Alex Theuma
2nd Ivan Douglas
3rd Owen Robertson

4 Dog Class
1st Terry Mace
2nd John Hodgson
3rd Alex Theuma

6 Dog Class
1st Jozsef Toth
2nd Terry Mace
3rd Marty Karow

National Marathon Champions

1 Dog Class
1st Mark Mulcahy
2nd Donal McIntyre
3rd Grant Meyers

2 Dog Class
1st Clem Bittendorfer
2nd Darren Higgins
3rd Peter Taylor

3 Dog Class
1st Alex Theuma
2nd Ivan Douglas
3rd Geoff Styche

4 Dog Class
1st Diane Baker
2nd A Theuma
3rd Geoff Styche

5 Dog Class
1st Marty Karow
2nd Nola Randall

6 Dog Class
1st Jozsef Toth
2nd Marty Karow
3rd Owen Robertson

Open Class
1st Jozsef Toth
2nd Marty Karow
3rd Geoff Styche

Left: Marty Karow National 5 Dog Marathon Champion ***Photo: A & F Matthews***

The 1999 Far Side Awards

Last month we asked for suggestions for awards - other than the Hike! point score champions - and we got some pretty interesting responses.

As you read these, please remember that they were forwarded in the spirit of fun and were not meant to cause anyone offence. But just in case anyone does take offence - I have withheld the names of those submitting the award nominees.

1999 Sportsman of the Year

Jason Walkom -(see Clem Bittendorfer's article in this edition for more info).

Best Stack of '99

The two Karens, McCarthy & Johnson, win hands down based on the amount of skin left on the trail
Chris Cobb a fall at the start chute of the Canberra Race in front of a large audience

Most dogs lost at one time during a race

Graeme Hall Sydney Sled Dog Shield - losing 4 dogs

Most dogs lost outside of a race

Paul Cartwright and Clem Bittendorfer Paul lost his 4 dog team at Dinner Plain on the Monday after the race, the loose dogs ran past Clem Bittendorfer who snow hooked his team & ran off in pursuit only to find that his own team had broken free & overtook him!

Wierdest encounter with the wildlife

Beth Bobroff Beth's legendary encounter with a kangaroo was immortalised on TV and video - but if you haven't seen it picture this - a kangaroo races up the trail towards the video camera, moments later Beth and her 2-dog team appear at the bottom of the trail. The Kangaroo sees the video camera operator, hesitates and then veers off out of camera range. Suddenly the Kangaroo reappears on the screen - this time heading back towards the oncoming team. It literally leaps literally only millimetres in front of the team and straight up in the air - about 8 feet - falling with a crash behind the team. Within moments the Kangaroo rights itself and bounds away. In the meantime Beth and both her dogs still have stunned looks on their faces as the head off back down the trail.
Terry Mace Wombats on the B50 - 2nd heat, 4k from start, one wombat being quartered by 4 dogs, huge tangles that took 4 minutes to sort out, wombat survives. ½ way mark wombat number 2, ran 100m along embankment with 2 leaders hanging onto his rump , wombat survives. Then ½k mark and on the home stretch wombat number 3 took the dog team into bush. Now either this was the same wombat with a death wish who also knew a short cut, or there are a lot of suicidal wombats in Belanglo. And people think sheep are dumb. Wombats are 1mtr long 1mtr wide, (they were the same size as some of the dogs on my team) built out of concrete and can't run very fast. At least it was too cold to smell the things
Annie Jackson Whose two dog team at QLD caught a Kookaburra half way round the track, then let it go!

Best quote of '99

Leigh Gilchrist "There's no bungee in that line" (The line was fully extended by eager dogs at the start line).

Wierdest decision by race committee

Wilddog Mushers Association Painting all the exposed roots on the trail gold.
Siberian Express Allowing all those one dog mushers compete the second day after going the wrong way.

Silliest race clothing

Henry Cordani's hat at the snow race
Anyone who wears shorts at 6 am and - 3degrees.
Clem Bumfloss's black G string and pink leotards.

Longest distance travelled by a handler to attend a race

Veronica Bittendorfer - travelling from South Africa to Canberra - 11, 267km, just to finish off the season!
John Hynd - Travelled as a handler with Terry Mace to Sydney. Specifically to handle for Terry in the B50 while Narelle did the handling of the team for the Sprint race. John kept awake all the way to Sydney (complaining about the hills we had to scale in the truck) while Narelle drove. John got some sleep Friday night, nothing on Saturday and still managed to stay awake with Narelle driving back to Melbourne (at least it was down hill all the way home). PS Narelle didn't sleep all weekend either (mostly because she was too cold on Friday and Saturday - sleep deprivation award).

Most dogs bagged during a single heat

Jozsef Toth - B50 a 3rd of his team bagged on heat 2.

Musher that attended the most races:

Darren Higgins - Four 1-dog sprint races, four 2-dog sprint races & a 2-dog Marathon race! 9 races in all.
Darren Kent, he did 8 national sprint races and also did a couple of local Husky Club races in Victoria.

Best display of alcoholic intoxication

The night time snow scooter stunt team at A5000 this year.

1 Dog Class -Sprint - Full Results

Place	Name	Points	Races	State
1	D Kent	4169.938	4	Vic
2	D Higgins	4075.175	4	Vic
3	M Mulcahy	4048.461	4	ACT
4	R Kinnane	3706.647	4	Vic
5	S Blanch	3695.773	4	Vic
6	P Snibson	3663.524	4	NSW
7	T Taylor	3627.935	4	Vic
8	C Neave	3533.047	4	Vic
9	D Forst	3373.115	4	NSW
10	R Shailer	3309.949	4	NSW
11	P McCann	3279.908	4	Vic
12	D Potts	3278.28	4	NSW
13	J Abela	3174.338	4	NSW
14	S Komidar	2876.303	4	ACT
15	G Myers	2854.12	3	NSW
16	Tracy Carter	2738.748	4	ACT
17	D DeBono	2699.562	3	NSW
18	A Matthews	2533.896	4	ACT
19	F Matthews	2388.498	4	ACT
20	J Martin	2375.434	3	Vic
21	B Jarvis	2373.422	3	Vic
22	N Smith	2279.622	3	NSW
23	Jason Workman	2270.542	3	NSW
24	D Odgers	2227.555	3	Vic
25	Tim Carter	2323.625	3	ACT
26	M Turner	2219.27	3	Vic
27	S Van Der Pol	1910.726	3	Vic
28	K Glaser	1855.249	2	SA
29	J Dalziel	1836.819	2	SA
30	D Hutchison	1814.796	2	NSW
31	D Maillet	1795.425	2	Qld
32	T Hosie	1753.941	2	NSW
33	M Herbst	1747.983	1	SA
34	G Carter	1737.694	2	ACT
35	C Cobb	1734.045	2	ACT
36	A Tetzlaff	1716.35	3	Vic
37	R Davey	1714.409	2	Vic
38	L Mulcahy	1684.939	2	ACT
39	D McIntyre	1674.716	2	NSW
40	C Simpson	1608.014	2	Vic
41	D Turner	1606.327	2	NSW
42	C Hampson	1604.394	2	NSW
43	M Allsop	1598.826	2	SA
44	P Skinner	1546.625	2	Vic
45	J Baker	1540.61	2	NSW
46	D Walters	1522.317	2	NSW
47	A Johnston	1504.871	2	Qld
48	M Rowcliff	1492.755	2	Vic
49	J Richards	1478.283	2	ACT
50	D Hamann	1450.205	2	Vic
51	J James	1449.421	2	NSW
52	James McIntyre	1341.01	2	NSW
53	S Slater	1331.764	2	NSW
54	N Winata	1273.127	2	NSW
55	S McLeod	1246.085	2	Vic
56	T Lunney	1227.134	2	ACT
57	K Curman	1211.984	2	NSW
58	E Evans	1207.728	2	Qld
59	B Hart	1148.778	2	Vic
60	A Payne	1126.156	2	NSW
61	C Bittendorfer	981.6679	1	NSW
62	O Robertson	938.7039	1	Vic
63	M Knowles	927.9506	1	NSW
64	D Maillet	926.4359	1	Qld
65	T Smith	924.7191	1	Vic
66	C Kyle	915.9589	1	ACT
67	P Ulanio	912.7445	1	Vic
68	L Reid	910.1009	1	Vic
69	R Santangelo	898.0846	2	NSW
70	S Shaw	896.5713	1	NSW
71	R Thompson	884.593	1	ACT
72	A Hurst	878.7822	1	SA
73	L Elliot	878.4342	1	NSW
74	K Dickson	871.8784	1	Vic
75	A Fasham	859.6028	1	Vic
76	N Katsoulis	857.1505	1	NSW
77	R Koch	852.7368	1	Vic
78	A Polley	829.6038	1	SA
79	R Wheeler	801.3268	1	NSW
80	P Komidar	800.3956	1	ACT
81	D Linatitis	800.3726	1	Vic
82	D Buswell	799.9407	1	NSW
83	S O'Neill	799.0938	1	Vic
84	C Magioni	798.542	1	Vic
85	A Pinner	794.7885	1	ACT
86	H Hudson	791.6875	1	NSW
87	D Letsch	790.068	1	Vic
88	R Losurdo	783.2971	1	NSW
89	C Filmer	770.2138	1	NSW
90	F Mahr	769.6689	1	Vic
91	S Cummings	764.7368	1	Vic
92	V Bartlett	763.2851	1	ACT
93	G Styche	759.8582	1	NSW
94	D Morris	758.3845	1	Qld
95	D Gardner	757.4744	1	NSW
96	L Anderson	757.4544	1	Vic
97	K Pratley	756.8709	1	NSW
98	D McNicoll	752.2122	1	Vic
99	A Quarterman	749.3731	1	ACT
100	M Dutton	747.9487	1	SA
101	D Hodgson	747.0435	1	Vic
102	B Poole	744.3924	1	Qld
103	M Spak-Paul	741.9388	1	Vic
104	S Creeley	741.0191	1	Vic
105	P Jones	740.8249	1	NSW
106	S Fabrikant	739.94	1	Vic
107	M McGregor	739.6806	1	NSW
108	D Stoward	736.703	1	Vic
109	M Whitaker	735.8712	1	NSW
110	S Thompson	727.5546	1	NSW
111	P Kazlauskas	725.6759	1	NSW
112	D Limnatitis	721.768	1	NSW
113	G Anstiss	721.6974	1	NSW
114	D White	709.4038	1	NSW
115	R Clive	702.7299	1	Qld
116	N Fredericks	697.9381	1	Vic
117	D Robertson	689.2232	1	ACT
118	N Halls	689.0307	1	Vic
119	A Meyers	686.3241	1	SA
120	J Bunyon	669.9366	1	SA
121	P Robinson	669.128	1	NSW
122	J Silva	665.3591	1	NSW
123	P Ogden	664.0857	1	NSW
124	A Peers	651.4109	1	Vic
125	D O'Niel	649.5884	1	Vic
126	S Podger	649.2557	1	Vic
127	T Johnston	648.5131	1	Vic
128	R Gibbon	646.6676	1	Qld
129	D Mahann	642.8787	1	Vic
130	Jamie McIntyre	640.8853	1	NSW
131	K Wood	638.1225	1	SA
132	B McIntosh	634.6443	1	ACT
133	L Hewatt	634.5494	1	Vic
134	M Curman	631.5175	1	Vic
135	J Bauer	631.1434	1	Qld
136	J Strenger	630.2004	1	NSW
137	G Nicholson	621.1435	1	Vic
138	S Bond	616.7921	1	ACT
139	A Bates	608.8342	1	Vic
140	B Cook	602.2724	1	SA
141	R Day Tomlinson	597.5175	1	NSW
142	H McGuiness	596.0173	1	ACT
143	R Rosewarne	590.7684	1	NSW
144	K Webber	585.7135	1	NSW
145	L Haller	581.4572	1	SA
146	S Smith	566.2901	1	NSW
147	L Peerdeman	556.6466	1	NSW
148	D Brown	548.9907	1	SA
149	L Gubin	546.6092	1	Vic
150	A Christoforou	546.5804	1	Vic
151	Jo Workman	523.3627	1	NSW
152	M Kelly	517.9351	1	Qld
153	C Smith	506.9798	1	NSW
154	A Anderson	459.2616	1	Vic
155	D Lett	451.1422	1	Vic
156	A Shearston	341.2989	1	NSW

2 Dog Class - Sprint - Full Results

Place	Name	Points	Races	State
1	D Hodgson	4149.469	4	Vic
2	P Komidar	4053.141	4	ACT
3	B Bobroff	4049.348	4	ACT
4	D Higgins	3994.853	4	Vic
5	C Bittendorfer	3970.553	4	NSW
6	S Hodgkinson	3847.546	4	Vic
7	K Losurdo	3755.514	4	NSW
8	A Gersbach	3691.348	4	ACT
9	D Potts	3609.355	4	NSW
10	I Higgins	3601.105	4	NSW
11	D Skakal	3593.416	4	NSW
12	C Turner	3460.31	4	NSW
13	P Skinner	3350.092	4	Vic
14	J Walkom	3324.167	4	NSW
15	M Turner	3177.393	4	Vic
16	B Dron	3103.718	4	NSW
17	A Fasham	3037.914	3	Vic
18	D Hutchison	2975.704	4	NSW
19	J Montanari	2911.025	4	NSW
20	D Coles	2785.936	3	Vic
21	M McGregor	2714.591	4	NSW
22	A Jackson	2699.359	3	Vic
23	R Tolhurst	2659.066	4	NSW
24	D Odgers	2413.608	3	Vic
25	A Gardner	2263.631	3	NSW
26	S Blanch	2231.045	3	Vic
27	T Hosie	2112.999	3	NSW
28	A Bartlett	2051.855	3	ACT
29	L Coutts	2051.549	2	Vic
30	K Johnston	2045.114	3	Vic
31	F Maher	2036.345	2	Vic
32	D Hamann	2028.356	3	Vic
33	T Smith	1961.076	2	Vic
34	O Robertson	1957.648	2	Vic
35	E Van Driel	1868.09	3	NSW
36	D Pettifer	1865.383	2	Vic
37	M Allsop	1818.686	2	SA
38	H Coutts	1781.917	2	Vic
39	J McNicol	1779.653	2	Vic
40	M Herbst	1779.341	2	SA
41	L Reid	1758.073	2	Vic
42	G Carter	1743.151	2	ACT
43	D Baird	1692.743	2	Vic
44	M Spakova-Paul	1689.841	2	Vic
45	K Persson	1689.106	2	Qld
46	C Neave	1674.152	2	Vic
47	D Gardner	1667.603	2	NSW
48	K McCarthy	1610.374	2	Vic
49	O Piper	1603.202	2	Vic
50	A McIntyre	1594.483	3	NSW
51	S Glover	1589.763	2	NSW
52	A Colvin	1568.318	2	NSW
53	H Cordani	1553.604	2	NSW
54	D McIntyre	1540.924	2	NSW
55	G Meyers	1529.439	2	Vic
56	C Hardie	1497.286	1	NSW
57	A Cook	1479.501	2	SA
58	J Rozman	1468.991	2	Vic
59	D Maillet	1453.042	2	Qld
60	M Rowcliff	1436.836	2	NSW
61	B Heinicke	1341.979	2	SA
62	L Tomlinson	1311.067	1	ACT
63	Jamie McIntyre	1296.674	2	NSW
64	D Boulden	1286.399	2	Vic
65	M Kershaw	1022.262	2	ACT
66	R Stevens	981.2478	1	Vic
67	M Ginis	965.9973	2	NSW
68	F Jensen	960.97	1	Vic
69	S Paul	924.8128	1	Vic
70	N Colvin	921.5356	1	NSW
71	T Field	921.1162	1	Vic
72	D Kent	920.6152	1	Vic
73	G Tetzlaff	919.728	1	Vic
74	C Giacomi	907.9584	1	Vic
75	W Walton	906.9653	1	Vic
76	M Quinn	901.6912	1	NSW
77	G Cook	871.8531	1	SA
78	R Kinane	864.0929	1	Vic
79	S Butcher	847.2714	1	NSW
80	C Kyle	844.1264	1	ACT
81	M Wheakley	838.5349	1	NSW
82	R Andrews	825.396	1	Qld
83	K Snibson	823.2995	1	NSW
84	J Strenger	818.6284	1	NSW
85	C Seare	811.811	1	Qld
86	J Thomas	807.3523	1	Vic
87	I Douglas	803.4417	1	NSW
88	K Ord	790.6387	1	ACT
89	R Shailer	781.4239	1	Vic
90	G Badior	770.9598	1	Vic
91	K Gardner	757.2054	1	ACT
92	M Robinson	753.8383	1	SA
93	N Brown	753.5891	1	NSW
94	N Galway	748.738	1	ACT
95	A Quarterman	740.8817	1	ACT
96	S McCann	728.9545	1	Vic
97	H McGiness	716.9542	1	ACT
98	D Debono	715.2227	1	NSW
99	K Moore	711.3056	1	Qld
100	D Limnatitis	711.0101	1	ACT
101	A Pinner	696.8295	1	ACT
102	B McIntosh	695.9736	1	ACT
103	S Berry	695.0106	1	Qld
104	N Church	692.0323	1	NSW
105	D Robertson	684.8138	1	ACT
106	S Giesen	683.8594	1	Qld
107	W O'Shannesy	680.9113	1	Vic
108	A Myers	680.3266	1	Vic
109	A Peers	678.7824	1	Vic
110	E Johnstone	677.0704	1	SA
111	C Wheeler	655.9747	1	SA
112	G Nicholson	638.5037	1	NSW
113	N McIlree	620.628	1	NSW
114	D Walters	617.2309	1	Vic
115	J Workman	597.7563	1	NSW
116	S Gardner	597.5523	1	NSW
117	P Myers	587.4713	1	Vic
118	C Shannon	568.3337	1	NSW
119	A Christoforou	560.8794	1	Vic
120	J Richards	544.6626	1	ACT
121	D Gava	543.8578	1	NSW
122	R Vitkunas	534.54	1	SA
123	D Morgan	528.8042	1	NSW
124	T Cooney	524.2979	1	Vic
125	R Roseworne	519.2883	1	Vic
126	M Dutton	493.9641	1	SA
127	Ralphs	469.0229	1	NSW
128	R Paule	460.5647	1	ACT
129	A Paxton	449.4044	1	ACT
130	P Friedlander	432.4127	1	NSW
131	A Matthews	396.8684	1	ACT

3, 4 & 6 Dog Class - Sprint - Full Results

3 Dog Class

Place	Name	Points	Races	State
1	A Theuma	2933.489	3	NSW
2	I Douglas	2584.391	3	NSW
3	O Robertson	1688.192	2	Vic
4	R Koch	1565.775	2	Vic
5	G Hall	1349.268	2	ACT
6	C Bittendorfer	1000	1	NSW
7	D Hodgson	1000	1	Vic
8	L Coutts	991.5379	1	Vic
9	A Fasham	921.4134	1	Vic
10	R Paule	889.3285	2	ACT
11	N Colvin	868.2283	1	NSW
12	D Pettifer	849.2628	1	Vic
13	D Baker	817.2632	1	Qld
14	G Carter	813.5015	1	ACT
15	A Jackson	809.0312	1	Vic
16	J Wooley	800.1592	1	Vic
17	W Baker	752.5361	1	Qld
18	J Walkom	707.1515	1	NSW
19	D Hamann	693.6248	1	Vic
20	D Skakal	690.1539	1	NSW
21	A Gardner	663.9581	1	NSW
22	D Limnatitis	652.6258	1	NSW
23	S Glover	641.4323	1	NSW
24	E Van Driel	624.5256	1	NSW
25	M Weakley	620.158	1	Vic
26	C Kyle	489.9585	1	ACT
27	M Dutton	486.5813	1	NSW

4 Dog Class.

Place	Name	Points	Races	State
1	T Mace	4170	4	Vic
2	J Hodgson	4016.714	4	Vic
3	A Theuma	3794.924	4	NSW
4	M Blockley	3778.369	4	Vic
5	D Baker	3778.202	4	Qld
6	M Waldock	3754.583	4	NSW
7	D Pettifer	3589.846	4	Vic
8	K McCarthy	3309.445	4	Vic
9	O Robertson	3025.944	3	Vic
10	L Coutts	3004.233	3	Vic
11	P Kuypers	2045.278	3	NSW
12	C Turner	1893.895	3	NSW
13	W Baker	1851.882	2	Qld
14	N Colvin	1830.462	2	NSW
15	M Karow	1817.429	2	Vic
16	M Turner	1568.323	2	Vic
17	R Koch	1512.232	2	Vic
18	C Kyle	1461.274	2	ACT
19	P Cartwright	1263.739	2	ACT
20	J Toth	985.110	1	Vic
21	L Elliot	950.163	1	NSW
22	I Douglas	932.423	1	NSW
23	C Neave	931.177	1	Vic
24	C Bittendorfer	918.311	1	NSW
25	J Wooley	857.100	1	SA
26	M Weakley	849.954	1	Vic
27	H Cordani	845.677	1	NSW
28	A Jackson	806.305	1	Vic
29	G Badior	747.022	1	Vic
30	M Banks	686.539	1	Vic
31	N Randell	646.807	1	Vic
32	B Burden	636.937	1	Vic
33	G Hall	630.573	1	ACT

6 Dog Class

Place	Name	Points	Races	State
1	J Toth	1957.241	2	Vic
2	T Mace	1802.405	2	Vic
3	M Karow	1668.722	2	Vic
4	J Hodgson	1000	1	Vic
5	W Baker	965.5684	1	Qld
6	M Blockley	871.934	1	Vic
7	G Badior	859.6685	1	Vic
8	K McCarthy	845.1428	1	Vic
9	H Cordani	826.1139	1	NSW

Di Baker - National Champion 4 Dog Marathon! Photo: A&F Matthews

Hike! National Marathon Point Score Results

1 Dog Class

Name	Place	Points	Races	State
M Mulcahy	1	2000	2	ACT
D McIntyre	2	1783.517	2	NSW
G Meyers	3	1633.522	2	NSW
N Smith	4	1405.252	2	NSW
D Walters	5	1389.815	2	NSW
L Mulcahy	6	1378.8	2	ACT
James McIntrye	7	1275.967	2	NSW
B McIntosh	8	1212.839	2	ACT
A McIntyre	9	1025.829	2	NSW
K Persson	10	1000	1	Qld
A Wilson	11	959.6605	1	Qld
P Snibson	12	956.6668	1	NSW
R Thompson	13	900.059	1	ACT
Jason Workman	14	892.8925	1	NSW
J Baker	15	887.2227	1	Qld
D Skakal	16	841.6073	1	NSW
D Hutchison	17	839.5226	1	NSW
T Carter	18	833.6765	1	ACT
D Debono	19	823.0471	1	NSW
R Clive	20	818.3739	1	Qld
M Robinson	21	811.038	1	Qld
C Filmer	22	778.1275	1	NSW
A Gersbach	23	774.6008	1	ACT
L Persson	24	774.2225	1	Qld
G Carter	25	757.2166	1	ACT
K Tziuotzias	26	754.6055	1	Qld
M Grieve	27	749.5313	1	Qld
M Rowcliffe	28	728.87	1	NSW
W Meyers	29	723.142	1	NSW
A Pinner	30	722.0071	1	ACT
G Nicholson	31	711.5514	1	NSW
Tracy Carter	32	682.9521	1	ACT
C Robinson	33	680.2917	1	Qld
G Anstiss	34	673.1477	1	NSW
P Morgan	35	670.1496	1	NSW
M McGregor	36	655.9059	1	NSW
Jamie McIntyre	37	652.6463	1	NSW
D Hodgson	38	622.8436	1	NSW
P Kazlauskas	39	622.6244	1	NSW
S Slater	40	614.9963	1	NSW
Jo Workman	41	606.2672	1	NSW
T Lunney	42	603.8583	1	ACT
N McIlre	43	581.7806	1	NSW
H McGinness	44	563.8753	1	ACT
K Kuypers	45	562.0011	1	NSW
M DeBono	46	539.9815	1	NSW
B Bob	47	538.5772	1	NSW
E Van Driel	48	516.4302	1	NSW
J Silva	49	475.511	1	NSW
P Friedlander	50	446.9462	1	NSW
B Brown	51	443.3859	1	NSW
P Sadler	52	430.5044	1	NSW
R Santangelo	53	402.9449	1	NSW

5 Dog Class

Name	Points	Races	Place	State
M Karow	600	1	1	Vic
N Randell	540.2867	1	2	Vic

2 Dog Class

Name	Points	Races	Place	State
C Bittendorfer	1991.947	2	1	NSW
D Higgins	1000	1	2	Vic
P Taylor	1000	1	3	Vic
C Turner	987.2059	1	4	NSW
K Losurdo	917.3985	1	5	NSW
J Walkom	896.441	1	6	NSW
D Skakal	856.7547	1	7	NSW
D Gardner	846.0032	1	8	NSW
H Cordani	839.6716	1	9	NSW
R Bates	824.9453	1	10	NSW
A Gardner	811.109	1	11	NSW
N Church	803.6703	1	12	NSW
C Cobb	774.9556	1	13	ACT
B Dron	753.2611	1	14	NSW
G Nicholson	751.5228	1	15	NSW
R Tolhurst	738.8765	1	16	NSW
S Glover	660.8425	1	17	NSW
E van Driel	626.1814	1	18	NSW
K Shannon	545.8153	1	19	NSW
D Gava	544.4139	1	20	NSW
R Paule	528.6958	1	21	ACT

Open Class

Name	Points	Races	Place	State
J Toth	2419.84	3	1	Vic
M Karow	2143.701	3	2	Vic
G Styche	1791.115	3	3	NSW
A Theuma	1416.068	2	4	NSW
T Mace	1000	1	5	Vic
J Hynde	1000	1	6	Vic
Di Baker	960	1	7	Qld
W Baker	919.5303	1	8	Qld
O Robertson	582.7896	1	9	Vic
I Douglas	478.4633	1	10	NSW
N Randall	429.8634	1	11	Vic
G Badior	385.475	1	12	Vic

3 Dog Class

Name	Points	Races	Place	State
A Theuma	1000	1	1	NSW
I Douglas	818.4334	1	2	NSW
G Styche	634.4703	1	3	NSW

4 Dog Class

Name	Points	Races	Place	State
D Baker	960	1	1	Qld
A Theuma	840	1	2	NSW
G Styche	585.7804	1	3	NSW

6 Dog Class

Name	Points	Races	Place	State
J Toth	1440	2	1	Vic
M Karow	748.7996	1	2	Vic
O Robertson	582.7896	1	3	Vic
G Badior	385.475	1	4	Vic

The Point Scores and how they Work

OK. You've read the results and you are probably wondering "How the hell did those numbers come about?". This article attempts to explain the results. And remember if you want to double check you results write (including a stamped self-addressed envelope) or email us here at Hike! and we'll provide you will all the calculations for you over the season.

Sprint Point Score - The Theory

The point score for each race is basically a number which measures your time as a proportion of the winners time and multiplied by 1000. So if you are the winner you get 1000 points. If you, for example, took twice as long as the winner to complete the course - you get 500 points etc.

Just to make it more complicated, this year's point score give each competitor an additional 10 bonus points for every top ten 1998 Hike National Champion for that class competing in the race. The idea behind the bonus points system is to reward those people competing in the most competitive races. The 3 dog and 6 dog classes were not included in last year's point score so competitors don't get any bonus points in those two classes.

Sprint Point Score - The Methodology

Let's use my first race of the season. At the Southern Cross Pro-Am, I finished with a combined time for both heats of 19 minutes and 32.9 seconds (or 1172.9 seconds). Darren Higgins who won the race finished in 1037 seconds. Therefore my total score for this race was 1179.2 divided by 1037 times 1000 or 884.1333 points.

At the Southern Cross race seven 1998 2-dog top 10 champions competed giving me a total score of 884.1333 + 70 or 954.1333 points.

The final score is based on your best 4 races. So for me, my best point score races were The Great Grey Bound (1004.69 points) the Sydney Sled Dog Shield (1030 points) the Wild Dog Derby (982.0769 points) and the Canberra race (1036.374 Points) with a total of 4053.141 points.

Marathon Point Score - The Theory

The marathon point score is essentially the same as that used in the sprint point score. The only differences being that there are no bonus points. However, there is a handicap system for 4 dog and greater teams where the longer the distance of the race the more points you score.

This works by multiplying your score by a ratio over of the distance of the race over the distance of the longest races (50 km) for the 4-dog and greater classes. In other words, if you came first in a 25 km race you would get a total of 500 points whereas if you competed in the B50 or K50 you would get the full 1000 points.

The Methodology - Marathon

The methodology for the Marathon point score is competitor's time divided by winner's time then multiplied by 1000 and then multiplied by the distance ratio of race distance over 50. Once again, your best 4 scores are added together for the final result.

Which Races Were Included

In the Sprint Point Score, the following races were accredited: Southern Cross Pro Am, Underra, Sydney Sled Dog Sprint, Northern Exposure Classic, Great Grey Bound, Wild Dog Derby, Sydney Sled Dog Shield, the Burn, Pedigree Pal Sled Dog Derby, Canberra Sled Dog Classic.

In the Marathon, the following races were accredited: Sugarloaf Mountain Marathon, Ridge Runners Race, Southern Highlands Freight Run, the Belangalo 50 and the Kooyoora Challenge.

Next Year's Point Score

If you've drilled down through the methodology and have some suggestions on how to improve it - or perhaps you've got an entirely different method - we'd love to hear from you. All suggestions will be published in Hike! And the point score think tank (ie me and Sharon) will make some decisions early in the new year for the Hike! 2000 point score.

Did You Know?

There are 701 types of pure breed dogs.

A stray dog who is afraid of people will trust the people associated with the dogs it plays with.

The old rule - multiplying a dog's age by 7 to find the equivalent human age - is fallacious. A dog is able to reproduce at 1 year and has reached full growth by 2 years. To calculate a dog's age in human terms, count the first year at 15, the second year as 10, and each year after that as 5.

Source: Dog Facts the Book

CYBERHUSKY KENNELS

WOULD LIKE TO CONGRATULATE
KUMA & SPYDER'S BABIES
ON A WONDERFUL SEASON

1999

Cyberhusky Cyclone L&H Coutts	"Gecko"	**1st 4 Dog Sibe Express** 2nd 6 Dog Sugarloaf **1st 4 Dog Altitude 5000** 2nd 4 Dog Canberra Classic 3rd 4 Dog NSW Shield
Cyberhusky Tempest J&J Walkom	"Jazz"	3rd 2 Dog AMCNSW Freight Run
Cyberhusky Whirlwind O&H Robertson	"Sade"	2nd 3 Dog Underra **1st 4 Dog Class Sibe Express** 2nd 6 Dog Sugarloaf 3rd 2 Dog Class NSW Shield
Cyberhusky Bombshell C&V Bittendorfer	"Gretel"	3rd 2 Dog Underra **1st 2 Dog AMCNSW Freight** 2nd 2 Dog Sugarloaf **1st 3 Dog Altitude 5000** **1st 2 Dog Canberra Classic**
Cyberhusky Arrow N Fredericks	"Kyda"	**1st 2 Dog Southern Cross** 3rd 2 Dog Sibe Express 3rd 2 Dog Altitude 5000
Cyberhusky Shuriken Darren Higgins	"Ookie"	**1st 2 Dog Southern Cross** 2nd 1 Dog CHA 3rd 2 Dog Sibe Express **1st 1 Dog NSW Shield** 2nd 1 Dog Wild Dog 3rd 2 Dog Altitude 5000 2nd 1 Dog Class Canberra Classic
Cyberhusky Stealth L&H Coutts	"Skeeter"	**1st 2 Dog Underra** 2nd 6 Dog Sugarloaf 2nd 3 Dog Sibe Express 3rd 4 Dog NSW Shield **1st 4 Dog Altitude 5000** 2nd 4 Dog Canb Classic
Cyberhusky Hot Buttered G Carter	"Cobra"	2nd 2 Dog Sport Southern Cross
Cyberhusky Kirra P&S Komidar	"Jet-Girl"	2nd 2 Dog CHA **1st 2 Dog NSW Shield** 2nd 2 Dog Wild Dog 3rd 2 Dog Class Canberra Classic
Cyberhusky Winkipop L&H Coutts	"Roo-Boy"	2nd 3 Dog Class Sibe Express **1st 4 Dog Class Altitude 5000** 2nd 4 Dog Class Canberra Classic

Congratulations to Clem Bittendorfer, Geoff Carter, Lawrie Coutts, Darren Higgins, Peter Komidar, Owen Robertson, Jason Walkom and their partners and family on looking after these great dogs and enabling them to reach their full potential. You should be as proud of your fantastic efforts as we are. For the last 3 years all of these dogs and their owners have worked hard and achieved the results they deserve. Starting out with a good dog on paper helps but it is the people who own these dogs that make them the great dogs that they are on the trail. CONGRATULATIONS TO YOU ALL. May the games continue in 2000.

We'd like to thank Fin Jenson, Darren Kent, Yvonne Penheim, Annie Jackson and Jozsef Toth for selling us our kennel's foundation Kuma & Spyder and for allowing us to use Cliff.

IRE CELERES (Go Fast)

Puppy & Stud Enquiries to Lawrie or Hayley Coutts (03) 59 429 073
Litter by "Spyder" out of "Gecko" planned for January 2000 enquiries welcome

A RAP FOR A GOOD SPORTSMAN!

Clem Bittendorfer

At nearly every race we hear the race marshal commend and reward acts of good sportsmanship. Racing your team is great fun but good sportsmanship is what it's all about.

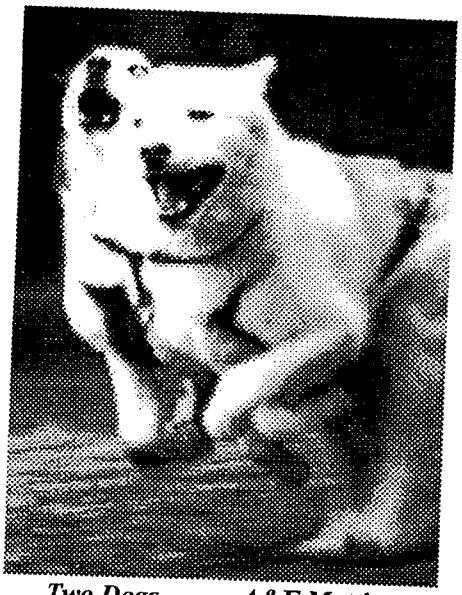
I would like to tell you a story from the Alaskan Malamute Club of NSW Freight Run in July, where I was fortunate enough to be on the receiving end of an act of good sportsmanship from a fellow musher and good mate – Jason Walkom.

At about 4 km into the 15km trail, I got a flat in the front wheel after hammering down a very steep section and hitting a strategically placed rock. Not long after, I caught Jason and we ran a few kilometres together before the tube came out of the tyre causing a "tube wrap" (new terminology!). Jason helped me fix the tyre then offered me his front wheel to continue the race. His reason being that I had already caught 4 minutes on him and had a better chance of placing in the top three. I gratefully accepted – WHO WOULDN'T!! Not many people would be as selfless and do the same – Thanks Jason! Needless to say we both made up a lot of time on the second day and Jason ended up placing third.

There are many stories of good sportsmanship that we probably don't hear about; Jason's effort deserves a special mention.... No place better than HIKE!

Clem.

Jason Walkom at the '99 Sydney SD Sprint



Two Dogs *A&F Matthews*

KONTROVERSY KORNER
BITCHING ABOUT RACES

Wayne Baker

This is aimed at all of the people who whinge about races but continue to enter the race's that they whinge about.

For example over the last few years, all the people who whinged about the reverse order at Bannock Burn .For me it is a great race to test my team and myself to see if we as a team have done the right training, that means have I taught my team to pass other teams correctly and be passed without worrying about the passing team.

In my opinion if you don't believe that your team or yourself cannot comfortably complete such a race knowing that the race is run in reverse order every year then don't enter. This year's race was down on number's but was up on sportsmanship there no complaints or bitching just people and their dog's enjoying the race, well down Bannock Burn for having the ball's to run the race the way they did this year.

This section is aimed at the person at the snow this year who came back from a run on the Monday morning after the race and after it stopped snowing. I don't understand how you could complain about the trail condition's considering that Rob Steven's went and organised the trail groomer to go over the trail when he or A5000 had no obligation to have the trails groomed (consider that the race was over) but did so.So that those of us that were still on the mountain could take our teams out and run them on snow instead of rock's & ice that we raced on .I know the trails are not always perfect at the snow or at any other race ,but I think that unless you have tried to run a race and please everyone I think that we should cut some slack for these club's that run race's a little differently and appreciate the work they do so we can run our dog's

Racer Profile - Terry Mace - National 4-Dog Sprint Champion

Name & Age
Terry Mace, age 45, live on 20 acres in Kilmore Victoria (and it snows at our place) with wife Narelle (37) and daughter Jessica (6). Avionics Technician by trade, retired from RAAF after 27 years and work for British Aerospace for the past 2½ years.

Club/Team of which you are a part
Weish Siberian Huskies. Lime green and black race gear. Seen over the years racing phenomenal Weimaraners. Sponsored by Meat-Bits. Now only involved with CHA

When you started mushing
Started running in late 1988 with our first Siberian, moved from Adelaide to Melbourne in 1989 and started with the club then and have race results from 1990.

How you found out about mushing
This on I can blame on Narelle. She has had Weimaraners for 19 years. I didn't 't like how big they were so I bought an over zealous Cattle dog. It became over protective if any one came near Narelle, so we had the dog euthanised. Narelle bought another Wei and bought me a Siberian. We read every book we could find, and made our first harnesses and off we went. I remember telling Narelle, she could only have two dogs, one weekend when I went away to a motorbike race I came home and there was another one. The rest they say is history. I have now learnt to do a head count whenever I get home from anywhere and just go with the flow.

How many dogs you now have
We have had up to 25 dogs recently but are currently down to 16 Siberians + 2 freeloaders (dogs we are looking after), and are planning our summer litters. There are plans for the arrival of some new dogs as well as a couple of frozen semen litters. So no doubt we will be up to 25 again soon. We have imported 5 dogs and had 1 IID litter to date. The dogs range in age from 11½ years to some very powerful and fast 14 month old pups that have yet to have a taste of racing.

Most memorable incident mushing
My Weimaraner Flash who I used as a leader was in charge of the team on a training run, she forgot that job to recall her naturally instinct for hunting ducks and took off down a creek. After some verbal encouragement and the lose of her ducks, Flash took the team up the opposite bank but not before the 4 Siberians on the team had to do some serious swimming and I was wet through. Narelle was sitting on the bank laughing.

Stupidest incident mushing
Alaska Earl and Natalie Norris place - My final run before returning to Australia, I took out a team that had 3 bitches in heat and the rest males. Testing out a new sled I bought, I wrestled with the sled for an hour before the dogs took off without me. They crossed a lake that had 3 foot of fresh soft snow, passed a neighbours house and continued on their run. The neighbour kindly pointed me in the direction the team headed and said sorry her 2 snow mobiles weren't working. It took me 5 miles in soft snow before I caught the team. I returned home to Natalie 3 hours later who said "your not a musher till you have lost a team". I was too stuffed to care about being a musher. Lesson learnt. Check your gear, and real dogs are more reliable than iron dogs. Narelle's comment "How could you loose a team of Anadyr dogs, if you are going to loose a dog team loose your own!!" She has since found out on her own trip that some of those Anadyr dogs take much pleasure in ditching the driver.

Funniest incident mushing
These mostly occur in training with close encounter with wildlife/stock. Race ones would have to go to the Kangaroo's at Southern and the wombats on the B50. The latest one in training worked to our advantage: One of our leaders likes to look at the scenery no matter what lays ahead on the trail. Whilst training one dark night, a white horse in an adjoining paddock decided to pace with the dog team. You couldn't hear the horse because the ground was so soft and all the leader could see was the horses head and neck as it was wearing rugs. That leader made a concerted effort to get the dog team the hell out of there and has never looked at the scenery again.

Your personal goals in the sport
I was asked this year by Lawrie Coutts and Owen Robertson what there was left in this sport for me to achieve, and I guess the answer I gave them is how I can best answer yours. I want to be able to take any dog out of my kennel and put that dog on any of our teams and have it perform flat out. Our dogs are getting faster each year. So am I about to retire - sorry everyone.

Where would you like to see the sport go in the future
There needs to be more races held in each state. Our season is limited by prevailing weather and geography. Many people just cannot travel interstate to races. For more races to start up some of the newer advocates to the

sport need to conduct the races under their own clubs or branches of some of the older clubs. More races will clash but that just has to be the way it is and other drivers will choose where they race.

Advice for the unwary

We tell this to everyone who comes to us for dogs. This dog will cost you $000's. The price of the dog is nothing in comparison. First the car will go for a station wagon, then you will get another dog or two and start racing. Then the wagon won't be big enough and you will get a dog truck and have to move house onto some acreage. Basically your life has gone to the dogs but along the way you will meet some good people.

On the serious side I would like people to really think about what they are doing before the rush headlong into buying/breeding a whole heap of dogs to get up into the bigger classes. Thinking they will do better there and because it is the in thing to do. You need to have a limit as to how many dogs you can/should keep and how many you can financially commit to. I know a lot of people think it would be really good to have as many dogs as we do, but it comes at a cost. It is a full time job for Narelle to look after this many dogs. You have to commit to their well being, meet government and local requirements and suffer heartache along the way. It is a huge financial commitment that we never make back out of the dogs because that is not our way. So think before you leap.

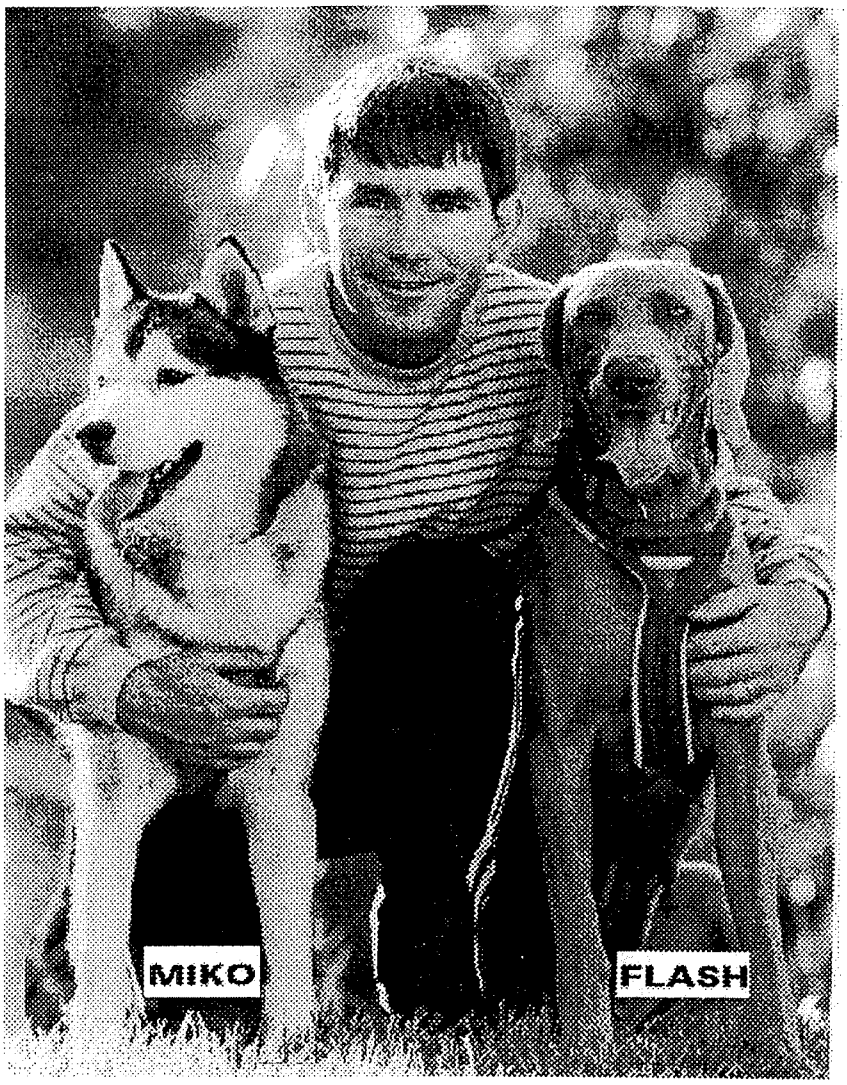
Training tip

Never ask the dog to do more than there are capable of, or more than what you have trained the dog to do. If they go out and give you 100%, whether you finish last, first or in the middle of the pack, they gave everything. Anything else is your own fault. You will only get out of this exactly what you put in.

How mushing can bring about world peace.

I hope it never does, I work in the defence industry designing missiles. That industry pays my wage, which pays for my dogs and mushing habits. Bugger Peace.

On a final note I would like to add that I have been very lucky over the 10 years with the results that I have achieved. The awards do not just belong to me, they belong in part to the dogs, and they are great dogs. To my daughter Jessica, who is as fanatical a musher and critical a trainer as you could come across. Many of the leaders on the teams I race are her dogs. To Narelle who I usually forget to say thanks to. I am very lucky to have her on my team and no one else's, she keeps me winning and is the best handler anyone could hope to have. Hardly misses a training run but usually misses out on races. She has the ability to "know" a dog and how it will perform, manages to put teams together after the first 2 runs. Breeds phenomenal puppies for me to go on with. Knows what each of those puppies will be able to achieve as adults and which will be a great dog. She has the ability to "think dog" like no one else I know. I am glad she's not racing because I wouldn't be the person collecting the wins. We have had some good people run teams/dogs for us - Mark Waldock did a great job with our team last year and this year John Rozman has had the opportunity to run one of our boys with his dog. I have also had some great handlers along this season. David and Letisha Potts, John and Sharon Rozman, John Hynd, "Trevor the treasure" and Natalie Brown. Good handlers are hard to find. So thanks to mine



Kooyoora Challenge Results

50 km Challenge

John Hynd	81.13	90 06
Greg Badior	112.37	DQ

Kooyoora Sprint

Six Dog Class One Heat Only

Terry Mace	19.52	1

Four Dog Class One Heat Only

Mitch Blockley	22.47	1
David Cole	28.48	2
Barry Burden	33.29	3

Two Dog Class One Heat Only

David Pettifer	16.29	1
David Hodgson	17.14	2
Annie Jackson	17.31	3
Pino Ulanio	18.31	4
Steven Paul	DQ	
Jacqui McNicol	DQ	

One Dog Class One Heat Only

Darren Kent	4.49	1
David Hodgson	5.02	2
Trevor Taylor	5.35	3
Simone Groves	5.37	4
Ross Kinnane	5.41	5
Michaela Paul	6.00	6
Peter McCann	6.11	7
Greg Badior	6.42	8
Jo Bronstring	7.06	9

Dave Hodgson National 2-Dog Sprint Champion
Photo: A& F Matthews

Results From The Burn '99

TWO DOG CLASS

NAME	HEAT 1	HEAT 2	TOTAL
David Hodgson	39.06	40.16	1.19:22
Beth Bobroff	40.48	41.45	1.22:33
David Cole	42.02	42.08	1.24:10
Donal McIntyre	50.54	51.25	1.41:29
Roseanne Shailer	50.07	52.46	1.42:53
Steven Blanch	52.32	53.54	1.46:26
Andrew Myers	56.48	1.01:36	1.58:24
Brian Dron	1.03:52	1.00:45	2.04:37

THREE DOG CLASS

NAME	HEAT 1	HEAT 2	TOTAL
Alex Theuma	40.28	41.08	1.21:36
Ivan Douglas	45.25	45.33	1.30:58
David Pettifer	47.37	48.28	1.36:05
Wayne Baker	52.51	55.35	1.48:26

FOUR DOG CLASS

NAME	HEAT 1	HEAT 2	TOTAL
Dianne Baker	42.30	43.25	1.25:55
Owen Robertson	43.47	44.11	1.27:58
Chris Neave	49.56	42.20	1.32:16
Marty Karow	47.41	48.35	1.36:16

Mark Mulcahey - National 1-Dog Marathon Champion
Photo: A& F Matthews

Musher Marries

Marty Karow

Well it's official. Jozsef Toth married Lynette Dineen in Druin on Sunday 19 Sep 99. The service was held in the reception room of an absolutely beautiful guest house hidden in the hills of Druin, VIC.

The Groom, Best Man (Marty Karow) & Groomsman (Finn Jensen) looked magnificent in their three piece suits,....yes that's right,....FINN wore a SUIT,....he looked outstanding. You would never have guessed that these guys were normally, unkempt, smelly, mushers. The bride, Lynette, looked beautiful and both Jozsef & Lynette looked like the perfect couple.

The reception was excellent. With a gathering of only 40 or so it had quite a social and friendly atmosphere. I organised the formal arrangements as far a speeches and toasts go. I, the best man, spoke. Then the bride's father spoke, and the brides mother spoke, and finally I introduced the Groom,....THEN JOZSEF HAD TO SPEAK!!!!!

Jozsef's speech was going great. However, as always, you had to listen carefully, otherwise you wouldn't be able to understand him properly. He thanked all those concerned, positively commented on the bridesmaids and he advertised his love for his new bride, Lynette. THEN he finished of by saying, "I vood also like to tank my sponzors, Eagle Pack, Moosashi and my dogs!. I could not have done it vitout dem!".

BLOODY CLASSIC.

Jozsef & Lynette are presently soaking up the sun in Fiji.

PS: Thankyou to all those that sent e-mails & faxes. Jozsef really was grateful.

Dog Jokes

Q. Do Blind Eskimos have seeing eye sled dogs?

Q. What has four legs and an arm?
A. A happy Pitbull!!!

Q. Why do you say your Siberian is a carpenter dog?
A. Last night, he made a bolt for the door.

Q. What do you do if a horny Pitbull is humping your leg??
A. FAKE AN ORGASM!

AUSTRALIAN MUSHER EMAIL LIST

Rob Stevens

Greetings all

Firstly, thankyou to those who have supplied additional names for inclusion in the Australian Mushers mail group. There is now a grand total of 65 recipients, as the list grows I will periodically mail out to you all an updated register.

In the header details above the "TO" names is the latest compilation of "Australian Mushers" that I have.

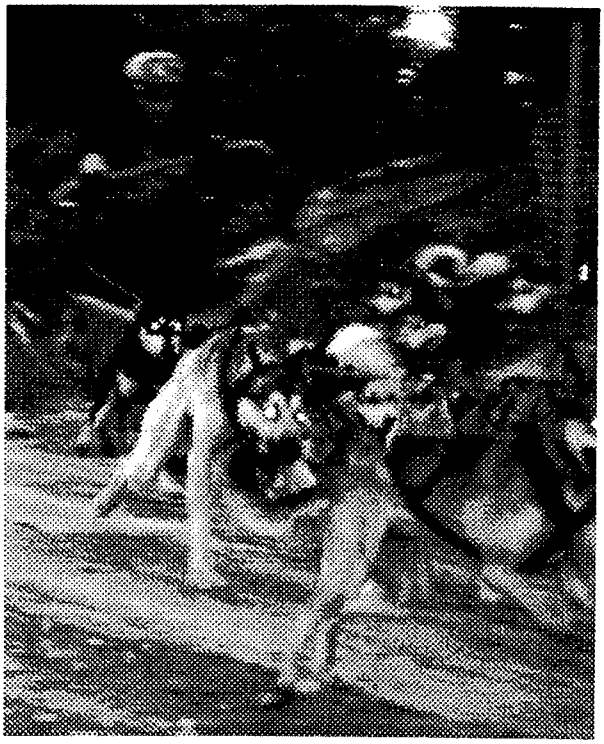
In order to create your own mail group and depending on which email software one has you may need to save each name individually into a group name or cut and paste the entire list. The title you select for you mail group need not necessarily be "Australian Mushers" use whatever you like.

Phil Jones has also kindly offered to create an Australian public domain mail list incorporating the same functionality as the popular US based Sleddog-L. Not sure of the exact details at this stage however I owe Phil a telephone call to discuss, more about this later.

Remember if you need or know of someone who would benefit from or should be on this list let me know and I will add their electronic details.

regards
Rob Stevens

If you have an email address and would like to be included on Rob email list - send Rob an email at sleddogs@ssc.net.au



Jozsef Toth Open Class Marathon and 6-Dog Sprint and 6 Dog Marathon National Champion

Starting Line Kuskokwim 300 Starting Line

While the racing season has ended in Australia, in Alaska mushers are just beginning to plan their racing season. One such race is the K300 held each year in the 3rd week of January.

The Kuskokwim 300, or K-300, runs from Bethel to Aniak and back

The K-300 race brings mushers from around the world. It is known as a great contest around the dog mushing community, always bringing the "big guns" dog mushers the likes of Jeff King, Charlie Boulding, Rick Swenson, and many more.

The race is also known for harsh weather conditions that are never the same from year to year. One year it can be 30 below zero and blizzard conditions, the next can be racing in the slush!!

Jeff King at the Start of the K300

After the K300 Mushers leave the Starting line, then a 70 mile sprint race, the Akiak Dash begins. Late in the afternoon another race, the Bogus Creek 150, also begins. As the weekend progresses and spectators wait for the finish of the K300, the mushers from the other races come across the finish line. There is nothing but mushing mushing mushing all through the weekend. Finally, Sunday afternoon, the weekend culminates with the K300 Awards Ceremony where mushers thrill the crowd with stories from the trail

It follows the trail along the Kuskokwim river that was used for mail delivery in the early days. In those days, the mail was delivered by dog teams.

The first regular monthly mail route between Bethel and Holy Cross began in 1906 when Oscar Samuelson moved from Nushagak to Napaskiak and acquired the mail route contract. Each month, Samuelson would go to Akiachak, then turn north across the tundra.

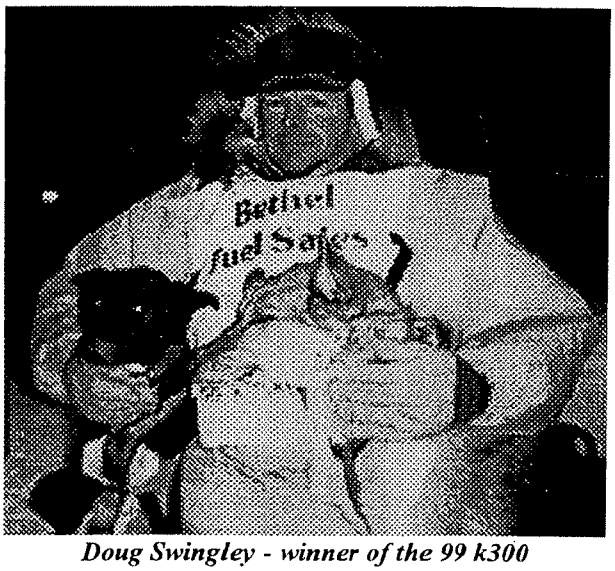
The Kuskokwim 300, which commemorates this early mail route, began in the summer of 1979, when Iditarod veteran Myron Angstman gathered a few people at his home to talk of turning a fanciful dream into reality.

As the start of the 1980 inaugural race approached, the weather took a turn for the worse. Low temperatures and blizzard conditions forced the wind chill factor down to 100 degrees below zero for the first 36 hours of the race. That was followed by a freakish thaw that brought freezing rain and slushy trails for the second half of the race.

The storm and the close finish of the first three mushers-- Swenson, Butcher, and Redington; set the tone for future races in which unpredictable weather and photo finishes would add drama and suspense to Alaska's premier middle-distance sleddog race.

The Kuskokwim 300 is a community event. The race brings out the people in the villages along the trail interacting and participating in the race. For one weekend each winter, Bethel, Alaska, becomes the Dog Mushing Capital of the World!! Fiddling Dances, Fireworks, and other activities make it a great weekend!

Through the continued support of the villagers, the K-300 has become the most recognized middle-distance sled dog race in Alaska. In the words of one musher, "The Kuskokwim 300 gives mushers a chance to test themselves and their dogs against other good teams, and still have six good weeks for the dogs to recover before the Iditarod".



Doug Swingley - winner of the 99 k300

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http://www.k300.org/

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"We teach you to train your dogs with your equipment"

Jamie Nelson - distance musher, multiple winner of the Beargrease 500, and Iditarod musher

Ann Stead - long-time top Siberian Husky breeder and musher

"I can honestly say that I learned more about running dogs in the three days of the clinic than I have learned from all the books I've read and the 3+ years I've been watching others and muddling through on my own".

Melissa & the 4 reformed housekies.
Monterey County, CA

"This was the best investment in mushing we've ever made".

Lloyd Oshiro
Santa Clara, CA

"This was the closest thing to coming away with bottles of knowledge. If you ever have the opportunity to take in one of their camps or seminars. do so!"

Dave and Bonnie Lundberg
Monticello, MN

Camps to be held, hopefully during **May 2000**

Camps are very 1-on-1 and limited to 8-10 teams at each

For more information contact, Beth Bobroff (02) 6231 8460
or Karen McCarthy (03) 5962 6220

Numbers strictly limited

Due to the financial commitment involved in bringing this level of experience and knowledge out to Australia and the organising that both Ann and Jamie would have to do within their own kennels , we need to have a very definite idea of the level of interest and commitment - asap.

Please contact us IMMEDIATELY.

Year 2000 Sled Dog Events Calendar

KACT				
AMCNSW Weight Pull	NSW	21 May	Yes	Geoff Styche styche@pnc.com.au
Southern Cross Pro Am	Vic	28 - 29 May	No	
Sugarloaf Mtn Marathon	ACT	3-4 June	No	
Underra Sled Dog Dash	Vic	10-12 June	Yes	H & D Pettifer pettifer@bigpond.com
Ridge Runners Race	Qld	10-12 June	No	
AMCNSW Weight Pull	NSW	11 June	Yes	Geoff Styche styche@pnc.com.au
Sydney Sled Dog Sprint	NSW	24-25 June	Yes	Craig Turner ionamal@shoal.net.au
Northern Exposure Classic	Qld	30/6 - 1/7	Yes	Donald Mailett (07) 3822 6427 d.maillet@mailbox.uq.edu.au
Great Grey Round	Vic	8-9 July	No	
Southern Highlands Freight Run	NSW	8-9 July	Yes	Geoff Styche styche@pnc.com.au
Wild Dog Derby	SA	15-16 July	No	
Sydney Sled Dog Shield	NSW	29-30 July	Yes	Ivan Douglas skylaska@zip.com.au
Delangalo 50	NSW	29-30 July	No	
The Burn	Vic	4-5 August	No	
A5000 Pedigree Pal SD Derby	Vic	11-12 August	No	
AMCNSW Weight Pull	NSW	13 August	Yes	Geoff Styche styche@pnc.com.au
Canberra Sled Dog Classic	ACT	25-26 August	No	
AMCNSW Weight Pull	NSW	9 September	Yes	Geoff Styche styche@pnc.com.au

About the Calendar: Note that many of the dates are yet to be confirmed - and I know for a fact that the dates of some races are being reconsidered and may not necessarily fall on the same time as 1999. So if you're planning your next year's leave take note of the confirmed column!

Clem Bittendorfer - National 2 Dog Marathon Champion *Photo Beth Bobroff*

Tough love works for dogs, too!

"But how can I say 'no' to him, he's just so cute?

Norma Bennett Woolf

"I just can't say no when she rolls those beautiful brown eyes at me!" laments Polly Jones, whose four-year-old Shih Tzu bitch sits in Polly's favorite chair and begs for scraps at meal and snack times. But Shasta is beginning to growl if Polly crowds her in the chair and leaps frantically for a share when the kids are eating a bowl of ice cream after dinner.

"Czar is so cute", Paul Johnson tells his friends. "Every evening when we relax in front of the television, he grabs my leg and starts humping. And he knows just when 11 o'clock rolls around - he beats us to the bed"! But Czar is a large dog; Sharon Johnson can no longer control him on a leash, and he has begun to growl if she rolls against him in the bed.

"I just can't put Mango in a cage", Roberta Cleary complains, "but if I leave her alone, she goes crazy, tearing up my furniture and messing on the floor.*

Shasta, Czar, and Mango are doing what comes naturally to dogs - taking the lead when their owners have abrogated their authority. These three pets and tens of thousands of others are benevolent canine dictators, arranging their families to suit their needs and using intimidation when necessary to prove a point.

The pack as power

Dogs, of course, are wolves in a variety of shapes, sizes and colours, but thousands of years of domesticity have moderated their pack behaviour. Wolves band together in family groups to assure survival. They hunt together, instinctively limit reproduction so that the whole pack can care for a single litter, and keep inter-pack squabbles to a minimum to conserve energy.

Dogs don't have to hunt for their food, so they do not need to cooperate with the rest of the pack to chase down a deer or elk. Their reproduction is limited by their owners, not by instinct, and their attitudes towards squabbles depends on breed and circumstances, not on a need to save themselves for the hunt. However, from Chihuahua to Great Dane, they do retain some smattering of pack drives that require owners to exert some authority or risk developing their pet into a four-footed king of the realm.

That moderate dusting of wolf behaviour inherited by puppies gives dog owners a valuable tool for teaching pet manners an deliminating unacceptable conduct.

The pack is a hierarchy of power. Every human in the family has more power than the dog. Of course, humans have the responsibility to exercise that power with kindness and compassion, but exercise it they must if the pup is to become a canine good citizen. Every dog has to respect the hierarchy of power in the household. Submissive dogs will do so willingly, but domineering dogs can be a problem. And even the tiniest Chihuahua can have an imperious attitude.

There are no exceptions to the rule. Even mild-mannered Mums and busy Dads (and mild-mannered Dads and busy Mums) must show the puppy the advantages of obeying commands, and the kids must follow suit. It does no good if Mom wields an iron fist in a velvet glove and Dad and kids let Fido rule the roost.

The plan

To prevent Fido from becoming king of the castle, owners need to assert their leadership through tough love. They should never allow puppies to develop behaviours that would be unacceptable in a full grown dog. Instead, human pack leaders need to determine ahead of time what they will tolerate and what is verboten and then guide the puppy to appropriate behaviour.

Tough love begins when the puppy has his first meal in his new home. No matter how hungry he seems, no matter how much he fusses and jumps around, he must learn to sit before he's fed. Not only does this simple exercise prevent him from jumping at the dish and possibly spilling its contents, it lays the groundwork for a relationship that you control.

If you hold the dish above the puppy's head, he'll have to sit to look up to it. Lower the dish slowy; if he moves before it reaches the floor, raise it until he sits again. Puppies learn fast - most will get it in a day or two and sit and wait for the dish to be put on the floor without a command.

Tough love continues as you teach the puppy the rules. If Pedro is a Great Dane puppy and won't be allowed on the furniture when he's 32 inches tall and weighs 140 pounds, don't let him on the furniture when he's a mere 25 pounds.

If you expect to walk Maestro on a leash when he reaches his full Mastiff size, teach him to walk nicely on a leash from the beginning.

If you expect Sasha to leave you alone while you are eating, don't feed her from your plate. Ever. Instead, teach her to lie down on her rug or in her bed or in the corner while you eat. No pleading eyes, upraised paws, or drooling should shake your resolve; you set the rules, you enforce the rules, and Fluffy obeys the rules.

Tough love may actually be tougher on you than it is on Daisy. After all, you're the one who has to resist the cocked head and pleading look and make sure the rest of the family does the same.

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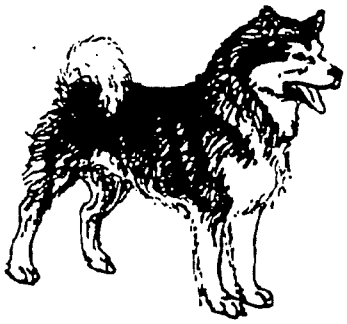

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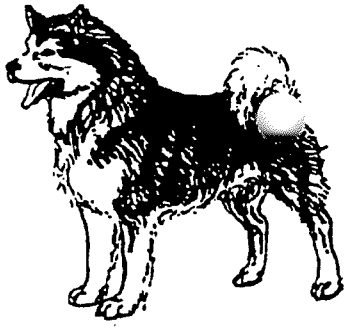

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